

Message Text

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12/43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 DRC-01 /105 W
----- 126740

R 161304Z JAN 74 ZFG
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 702
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION BERLIN

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y PARA 2 LAST LINE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HU

SUBJECT: SENTENCING OF DISSIDENT WRITER MIKLOS HARASZTI

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS SOURCES "LEFT-WING RADICAL"
SOCIALIST MIKLOS HARASZTI JAN 11 RECEIVED AN EIGHT-
MONTH SUSPENDED SENTENCE AND WAS PLACED ON PROBATION
FOR THREE YEARS FOR HAVING COMMITTED "GRAVE INCITEMENT".
ALLEGED VIOLATION CONSTITUTES "ANTI-STATE CRIME",
PUNISHABLE BY UP TO TEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT. THERE WAS
NO MENTION OF HARASZTI CASE IN LOCAL PRESS, ALTHOUGH
MTI ENGLISH SERVICE CARRIED SHORT NOTICE.

2. HARASZTI WAS ARRESTED IN MAY 1973 AND ACCUSED OF
ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE TO YUGOSLAVIA MANUSCRIPT CRITICAL
O COMMUNIST TREATMENT OF WORKING CLASS. HARASZTI FIRST
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WENT TO TRIAL IN SEPT, BUT COURT REPEATEDLY POSTPONED

PROCEEDINGS, AND IT APPEARED AS IF AUTHORITY WOULD LET CASE QUIETLY DIE. ONE SOURCE REPORTED THAT AT FIRST TRIAL OVER 300 YOUNG INTELLECTUALS JAMMED COURTROOM. IN ANY CASE, WHETHER TRUE OR NOT, REGIME MAY HAVE FEARED THAT AN IMPRISONED HARASZTI WOULD QUICKLY BECOME A RALLYING POINT FOR HUNGARIAN DISSIDENTS AND AN EMBARRASSING SYMBOL FOR WESTERN INTELLECTUALS.

3. OVER PAST YEAR, (IT FITS IN NICELY WITH CURRENT WP ANTI-CHINESE CAMPAIGN) KADAR REGIME HAS CRACKED DOWN ON SEVERAL ALLEGED "MAOIST" GROUPS, MOST NOTABLY THAT LEAD BY EX-PREMIER ANDRAS HEGEDUS. GOH WANTS TO MAINTAIN ITS "LIBERAL" IMAGE, HOWEVER, AND HAS BEEN AT PAINS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT DOES NOT DEAL AS HARSHLY WITH DISSIDENTS AS DO SOVIETS. DURING RECENT PRESS ATTACKS ON ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSIN, HUNGARIAN MTI CORRESPONDENT EMPHASIZED TO PAO THAT ARTICLES FAVORABLY MENTIONED "ONE DAY IN LIFE OF IVAN DENISOVICH" AS IF TO POINT UP GREATER FLEXIBILITY OF HUNGARIANS VS. SOVIETS. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS, GOH OFFICIALS ARE ALSO PLAYING DOWN SIGNIFICANCE OF HARASZTI CASE.
PEDERSEN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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To: STATE
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